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## 'Magic of technology' key to future ship design

WASHINGTON (NNS)— Designs now being considered for future ships will make tomorrow's Navy more effective and affordable. An important key is applying technology and putting that "magic of technology" to work for the Sailor.

Don't let rumors overwhelm you. Navy officials say these discussions are about ships of the future and not about those in the Fleet today. Manning concepts are being considered for "drawing board" ships like CVX, a new generation aircraft carrier, and SC21, the 21st Century surface combatant ship design.

"Innovation and technology are important to our future," said ADM Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations. "The magic of letting technology work for us can help free the Sailor of the future from routine daily tasks. Sailors will be able to concentrate more on war fighting skills and the overall crew size of some of our future ships may shrink."

CNO said the Navy is taking a careful approach to bringing new technology into the Fleet. CVN-77, the tenth and last Nimitz class carrier is by design a transition ship. Some of the new technologies, including different ways of manning that carrier, can then be applied to future CVX designs. "If we go straight to CVX, we're not going to be as smart as we need to be," he said.

The range of new technologies under consideration is impressive. Future Navy ships can benefit from highly integrated information systems. High capacity fiber optic

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# NAVY NEWS

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For more than 30 years the *Intruder* was a carrier-based attack aircraft. The last of the *Intruders* are being retired Feb. 28. (U.S. Navy photo by LT Pat Etienne).

## Navy says farewell to A-6 *Intruder*

WASHINGTON (NNS)— The venerable A-6 *Intruder* medium attack bomber will retire from the Navy's inventory of combat aircraft at a ceremony aboard the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Friday, Feb. 28. There are currently two A-6 squadrons in active service. Both will be retired on the same day. VA-75 will stand down on the East Coast at NAS Oceana, Va. and VA-196 at NAS Whidbey Island.

For more than 30 years the A-6 *Intruder* has been "the tip of the spear" in combat operations. The *Intruder* is a carrier-based attack aircraft, capable of striking deep into enemy territory, flying low level, day or night and in bad weather. The *Intruder* can carry a va-

riety of weapons from missiles to bombs. It can carry up to 28 500-pound bombs. The only military aircraft capable of carrying more ordnance is the B-52.

The A-6 has served in Vietnam, Libya and Desert Storm, and in other carrier-based crisis where air power has been employed in the last three decades. At one time NAS Whidbey Island had as many as seven squadrons and more than 125 aircraft.

As the Navy's first line of attack aircraft, the *Intruder* was featured in a book by Stephen Coonts, "The Flight of the *Intruder*," which was also a major motion picture released in 1994.

● **MAGIC continued from page 1**

cables can speed information and improve combat survivability. Composite materials used in hull components and antennas can reduce ship maintenance and upkeep. CVX might have catapults powered by electromagnets that take up half as much space and require fewer people to operate and maintain.

"How can we man an aircraft carrier of today with 3,500 people?" asked one Navy official. "We can't. We will continue to look at good ideas and study useable technologies, for our future generation of ships. These plans won't impact our ships at sea today and the size of their crews."

## USS *Antietam* rescues Iranian sailors

ARABIAN GULF (NWSA) USS *Antietam* (CG 54) rescued nine crew members from an Iranian dhow while operating in the central Arabian Gulf Feb. 12.

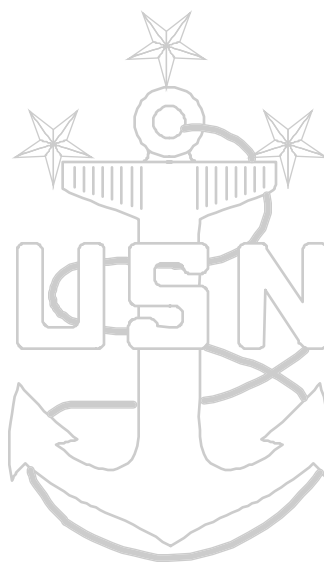
The San Diego-based guided-missile cruiser responded to a distress call from the cargo dhow Soroosh, en route to Iran from Qatar.

The *Antietam* rescue and assistance team boarded and discovered flooding.

The dhow was no longer seaworthy, so the crew was taken aboard *Antietam*, then taken to Qatar.

## Search begins for next MCPON

by JOC Cleve Hardman, Public Affairs Assistant to the MCPON



WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Nominations are being sought for the next Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON). The MCPON occupies the highest position in the Navy's enlisted force, serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and the principal enlisted assistant to the Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP).

The MCPON accompanies the CNO on visits to naval installations and units; prepares and presents congressional testimony; serves as the Navy's enlisted representative on presidential, DOD, military service and executive corporate-level working groups; assists commands, bureaus and other offices of DOD and Navy Department in matters pertaining to enlisted naval personnel and their families; assists CNP on various boards and at symposiums concerned with enlisted career quality-of-life issues; participates at various civic and Navy affiliated functions; and acts as a focal point for a wide range of personal correspondence concerning enlisted personnel and program matters.

Master Chief Electronics Technician (SW) John Hagan was selected as 8th MCPON in the spring of 1992. He plans to retire from active duty in 1998.

All commands are encouraged to nominate, via their immediate superior in command, those Command Master Chiefs and Chiefs of the Boat whom they consider to be fully qualified for this challenging position. Nominations must be received by April 21. Selection will be based on command nominations, preliminary screening action by a select panel of the 1997 E8/9 Selection Board and final screening by a special selection board to be convened by the CNO.

The MCPON designate will relieve the MCPON in the fall of 1997. Full details of the nomination process are contained in NAVADMIN 031/97.

## THIS WEEK IN NAVY HISTORY

**Feb. 20, 1966** — *Fleet ADM Chester W. Nimitz, the Navy's last five-star admiral, dies at the age of 81 at his home on Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco bay.*



## NAVNEWS

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## BUPERS Lists Important Dates

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) is reminding Sailors of upcoming selection boards, application deadlines and other dates that are important for Navy men and women.

**Mar 1** Women's History Month  
American Red Cross Month  
Deadline for Reserve E-8/9 board correspondence

**Mar 3** Active and Reserve O-7 Staff Boards convenes

**Mar 4** E-4 advancement exam

**Mar 6** E-5 advancement exam

**Mar 10** Reserve O-7/8 Selective Early Retirement Board convenes

**Mar 11** E-6 advancement exam  
Active E-8/9 Board convenes  
Active O-5 Line Board convenes

**Mar 12** Technical Nurse Corps Warrant Officer Full Time Outservice Training Board convenes  
Law Education Program Board convenes  
JAG Targeted Augmentation Program Board convenes

**Mar 15** E-5 evaluations due

**Mar 17** Active O-7 NC/MC Board convenes

**Mar 19** Test Pilot Screening Board #1 convenes

**Mar 20** First Day of Spring

**Mar 21** Transfer/Redesignation Board applications due

**Mar 24** 1700 XO Screen Board convenes  
Reserve E-8/9 Board convenes

**Mar 24-26** CNO Career Information Team — Southeast U.S.

**Mar 25-27** Navy League Annual Sea Air Space Exposition

**Mar 30** Easter

**Mar 31** Mid-term counseling for Reserve O-5 (inactive) and O-4 due  
Mid-term counseling for E-8, E-7 and E-4 due. W-4/3/2/1 Active and Reserve fitness reports due O-2 and O-1 Reserve fitness reports due Medical Service Corps Inservice Procurement Board convenes

**Apr 1** Month of Military Child  
Child Abuse Prevention Month  
NASA Astronaut Board convenes

**Apr 1-May** Navy Savings Bond Campaign

**Apr 2** Reserve E-7 Special Board convenes

**Apr 6** Daylight Savings Time begins

**Apr 7** Civil Engineer Corps O-5 Command Screen Board convenes  
Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council

**Apr 14** Active O-5 Staff Board convenes

**Apr 15** E-9 evaluations due Federal and State Income Tax returns due (postmarked)  
Joint Staff Officer Board convenes

**Apr 17** Reserve O-5 Line Board convenes

**Apr 21** Submarine CO/XO Board convenes

**Apr 28** SWO Department Head Screening Board convenes

**Apr 29** Active O-4 Line Board convenes

**Apr 30** Mid-term counseling due for O-4, O-3 and E-1/2/3

## Status of the Navy



**Personnel:** 405,645 active duty; 237,977 ready reserves; 213,048 civilians

**Aircraft:** 4,754

**Ships:** 352

**At Sea:** 171 ships (49%)

**Deployed:** 101 ships (29%)

**Personnel Deployed:** 47,967

**Exercises:** 5

**Port Visits:** 14

**SSNs at Sea:** 35 (47%)

**Carriers/Air Wings at Sea:**

USS *Kitty Hawk*/CVW-11: INSPIRED ALERT 97-1, Arabian Gulf

USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW-3: port visit, Livorno, Italy,

USS *Constellation*: JTFEX 97-1, eastern Pacific

USS *Nimitz*: local ops, eastern Pacific

USS *Independance*: local ops, Sea of Japan

**LHAs/LHDs/LPHs at Sea:**

USS *Essex*/11th MEU: port visit, Fremantle, Australia

USS *Nassau*/26th MEU: local ops, Mediterranean Sea

USS *Boxer*: JTFEX 97-1, eastern Pacific

USS *Guam*: local ops, western Pacific

USS *Saipan*: local ops, western Pacific

USS *New Orleans*: transit, western Pacific

**Ships Assigned to Middle East Force:** USS *Ardent*, USS *Dextrous*, USS *Nicholson*, USS *Halyburton*, USS *Hamilton*, USS *Leftwich*, USS *Fletcher*

**Other Exercises/Operations:**

Operation *Southern Watch*, Arabian Gulf

Maritime Interception Ops, Arabian Gulf

INSPIRED ALERT 97-1, Arabian Gulf

Counter Drug Ops, Caribbean/East Pacific

JTFEX 97-1, eastern Pacific



## 3rd Fleet hosts training exercise in the Pacific

*courtesy of 3rd Fleet Public Affairs*

SAN DIEGO (NWSA) — More than 15,000 service members are testing their ability to project combat power ashore during Pacific Joint Task Force Exercise (PAC JTFEX) 97-1, Feb. 10 through 21, off the Southern California coast.

The 3rd Fleet exercise involves 20 ships, fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters from USS *Constellation* (CV 64) Carrier Battle Group and USS *Boxer*

(LHD 4) Amphibious Ready Group with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked. Army, Air Force, National Guard and Coast Guard units are also participating.

The exercise includes various air strike and support missions, maritime interdiction operations, humanitarian operations, operational testing of weapons systems, logistics support, search and rescue and command and control.

Amphibious operations supporting

the exercise will culminate with an amphibious landing at Camp Pendleton, Calif., involving surface and helicopter assault forces. PAC JTFEX 97-1 is part of a series of exercises previously named "FLEETEX." The current name reflects the increasing focus on preparing naval forces for joint operations with other U.S. military services.

## USS *Oliver Hazard Perry* decommissioned

MAYPORT, Fla. (NNS)— The guided-missile frigate USS *Oliver Hazard Perry* (FFG 7) was decommissioned Thursday, Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. in a ceremony at Naval Station Mayport, CAPT J.A. Young, commander, destroyer Squadron Six was the guest speaker.

Perry, lead ship of the Navy's largest ship class, was named for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry who defeated

the British Great Lakes Fleet at the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. Built in 1977, *Oliver Hazard Perry* was the first ship to incorporate modern gas turbine engines, computerized controls and sophisticated weapons.

*Oliver Hazard Perry* most recently completed a three-month cruise to the Great Lakes, visiting 14 ports in support of recruiting in the very waters

where Commodore Perry delivered his memorable words, "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

USS *Oliver Hazard Perry* was commanded by CDR Robert F. Holman.

## '97 Navy Leader Planning Guide available

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NWSA) — The Chief of Naval Education and Training is currently making a free initial distribution of the 1997 Navy Leader Planning Guide (NLPG), which incorporates many leadership items into one 53-page book.

The guide features sections on the Navy's Core Values Charter, Goal Card Program, Leadership Training Courses and the Leadership Continuum. It also includes the traditional calendar of upcoming and historical events, reference listings, phone listings, handy planning forms and other useful information.

The 1997 NLPG is available through normal supply channels via milstrip. The NSN is 0115-LF-113-7100. There are also three alternate ways to obtain

a copy:

— Bureau of Naval Personnel's BUPERS ACCESS

In CONUS, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico call toll-free , 800-346-0217/762-8567, or (703)614-3174/(703)695-6900, DSN 225-6900/224-3174. For tech support call (703)693-6942 (DSN 223).

— Naval Education Training Professional Development Technical Center's electronic bulletin board system (NETPDTC BBS). To set up an account dial in with a modem at DSN 922-1394/1820 or (904)452-1394/1820. The Navy Leader Planning Guide is in File Area 4, Special Requests.

— Streamlined Automated Logistics Transmission System (SALTS). To apply for an account call DSN 934-3645.

### Notable Quotable

*"I challenge you to stay committed to excellence.*

*Commitment builds character, character builds courage and courage builds leadership."*

— CAPT Donald E. Peters remarks at a Recruit Training Command graduation recently.



# Navy evaluates advanced cardiac care systems on surface combatants

*courtesy of Public Affairs Center San Diego*

SAN DIEGO (NWSA) — Sailors assigned to cruisers, destroyers and smaller surface ships will soon enjoy increased availability to medical care. The Navy's Regional Support Organization (RSO) San Diego has initiated the advanced cardiac care pilot project to deliver better cardiac care to Sailors underway.

The pilot program will be evaluated by May, before a decision is made whether to introduce the program fleet-wide.

"Prior to this project, we were un-

able to do very much for cardiac arrest victims with the exception of CPR and medevac," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Roy L. Underwood, of Huntington, W.Va. "This system allows the independent duty corpsman to make a more informed judgment on the need for immediate medical care."

"Cruisers, destroyers and other smaller ships are more often operating independently from battle groups which creates an even greater time delay for medevac to the advanced medical capabilities of an aircraft carrier," said Michael M. Salas, project coordinator, of Romona, Calif.

Advanced cardiac care systems are currently installed on San Diego-based USS *Merrill* (DD 976), USS *Rentz* (FFG 46), USS *Vincennes* (CG 49), USS *Lake Champlain* (CG 57) and USS *John Young* (DD 973).

Although only in its initial phase, the Advanced Cardiac Care Pilot Project is already receiving high marks from the corpsmen who have been using the system. Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jeff G. Simpson, of Bakersfield, Calif., said, "To have an acute cardiac care unit aboard the ship will give us an advantage in saving lives."

## NAVY-MARINE CORPS NEWS

Navy-Marine Corps News is a videotaped newscast generated for broadcast to Navy-Marine Corps fleet and shore units. The next Navy-Marine Corps News (program #708) includes the following stories:

- High tech shipboard medical care saves the life of merchant seaman
- Sailors aboard USS *Antietam* rescue crew of Iranian Dhow in Arabian Gulf
- Focus on the Fleet: Norfolk's WTKR TV-3 takes a ride on the Mark V Patrol Boat
- Quantico Marines get study time for Professional Military Education
- Tuition Assistance program helps Sailors and Marines get ahead
- USS *Hue City* pays tribute to Vietnam Veterans of the Battle of Hue City
- Tax Time: News you can use on what tax forms to file
- Black History Month Feature: Boiler Technician makes a difference
- Navy Leader Planning Guide charts yearly path for Sailors
- USS *George Washington* Sailors and Marines visit George Washington University
- Hang Loose at Waikiki's Hale Koa Hotel on your next R&R vacation
- Movie Call: "Gridlock'd"

We need your input on Navy-Marine Corps News, so call our FEEDBACK LINE at (202) 433-6108 or DSN 288-6108 and leave a message or send us E-Mail at: [nmcn@smtp.mediacen.navy.mil](mailto:nmcn@smtp.mediacen.navy.mil)

If you have distribution questions contact Mr. John Morrissey at (202) 433-5844 or DSN 288-5844, or write him at the address mentioned below. All Navy-Marine Corps News tapes must be returned each week. Please use the enclosed return label.

If you have items that you think would be of interest to the Navy or Marine Corps worldwide, please submit your original video contributions on BetaCam, Hi-8, Super VHS, or 3/4 inch videotape to the nearest Navy Broadcasting Fleet Support Detachment or send by fastest means possible to our field producer at:

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